

**DUE DATE SLIP****GOVT. COLLEGE, LIBRARY**

KOTA (Raj )

Students can retain library books only for two  
weeks at the most

BORROWER S No	DUE DATE	SIGNATURE

# **HOW NIGERIA IS GOVERNED**

# HOW NIGERIA IS GOVERNED

*Edited by*  
Research Board

RESEARCH : DELHI

**Rs. 15 00**

**PRINTED IN INDIA**

---

**PUBLISHED BY RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS IN SOCIAL  
SCIENCES, 2/44, ANSARI ROAD, DARYAGANJ, DELHI-6  
PRINTED AT GOPAL ART PRINTERS, JAIPUR**

## PREFACE

This is a short brochure on the constitutional and administrative system of *Nigeria*. The purpose of this description is to provide our countrymen, specially the student world, with a picture of *Nigerian* executive, legislature and judiciary. It also throws light on some other important aspects of local and central administration of *Nigeria* and presents an authentic account of its role in international affairs.

It may be added that the entire or most of the material of this brochure is based on the fact sheets, reference papers and other official publications supplied to us by the *Nigerian* Embassy or Government. The volume narrates the whole matter, just as it is described in the official publications of the concerned Embassy or Government. Only the sequence has been arranged to make it easier for the reader to understand the subject matter. We are extremely grateful to the *Nigerian* Embassy for generously providing us with the material of our interest and extending co-operation in every respect.

It need hardly be added that the publishers do not claim or acknowledge any responsibility for the views expressed or matter described in the volume.

Once again we express our gratitude to the *Nigerian* Embassy for supplying us material of our interest and extending their kind co-operation.

*Publishers*

# CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
2	Constitutional Development	13
3	The Twelve States	19
4	The Government (Federal and State Ministries)	23
5	Public Corporations, Boards and Local Government	42
6	Law and Order	51
7	Defence	57

HOW  
NIGERIA  
IS  
GOVERNED

## INTRODUCTION

**N**igeria has a Federal military government. The Head of the Federal Government is styled as "The Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces". Nigeria has 12 States and the Official language is English. The capital of the country is Lagos.

### GEOGRAPHY

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is the largest single geographic unit along the West Coast of Africa and occupies a position where the western parts of the African continent meet equatorial Africa. Its area of over 356,669 square miles lies between parallels 4° and 14° north of the Equator so that it is entirely within the tropical zone, extending northward

## 2 • HOW NIGERIA IS GOVERNED

from the coastline for over 650 miles. Its population of over 55 million is by far the largest in Africa.

From the western border to the east there is a distance of 700 miles at the widest part. On the west is the Republic of Dahomey, to the north is the Niger Republic and the Sahara desert and along the eastern border lies the Federal Cameroon Republic. The Atlantic Ocean, known variously along the West Coast as the Gulf of Guinea, the Bight of Benin and the Bight of Biafra, washes the coastline for some 500 miles.

Almost unbroken sandy beaches stretch along the coast. The mouths of those rivers which do break through are masked by an apparently solid wall of green mangrove. But behind this seeming barrier calm lagoons extend from the western border into the great Niger Delta where they break up into a network of creeks and waterways that provide valuable means of communication through this part of the country.

Inland from the coastline that tropical rain forest takes over to a depth of between 60 and 100 miles northward. From the air this area has the appearance of an almost unbroken carpet of green treetops with, here and there, small clearings and farms. The oil palm is found in profusion but there is much valuable commercial timber and, in the west, excellent cocoa growing areas. Nowhere in this area is there any high ground until the northern limits of the forest are reached and the vegetation takes on the character of guinea savannah with high forest in the river valleys. Low hills occur in the west reaching 2 000 feet at the highest points between the forest and the Niger River valley.

Beyond the valleys of the Niger and Benue rivers park-like savannah predominates until it merges into Sudan savannah over the northern border and into the Sahara desert. A conspicuous feature of the northern part of the country is the great plateau which rises as a steep escarp

ment from the riverain plains of the Niger/Benue to an average height of 2,000 feet with ranges of hills between 5,000 and 6,000 feet in the Shere Hills around Jos. To the north the plateau descends gently in the direction of Lake Chad in the north-east and more sharply to Zaria in the west.

Although Nigeria is wholly within the tropics the climate varies from the typical tropical at the coast to sub-tropical further inland. There are two well-marked seasons, the rains lasting from April to October (starting later and finishing earlier in the north) and the dry season from November to March. Temperatures at the coast seldom rise above 90° but humidity is high. Further north the climate is drier and extremes of temperature are some common, sometimes reaching as high as 110° and falling to 50° and even below on occasions.

## CLIMATE

The mean maximum temperature is about 87° Fahrenheit in the coastal belt and about 94° in the north, with a normal decrease of about 4° per thousand feet of altitude. Maximum temperatures are highest from February to April in the south and from March to June, in the north. They are lowest in July and August over most of the country. The seasonal change of maximum temperatures is much greater in the north than in the south.

The mean minimum temperature is about 72° Fahrenheit over most of southern Nigeria, but falls to 66° in the north. The normal decrease with altitude is between 1° and 2° per thousand feet. In the south, minimum temperatures are generally highest in March and April and lowest in August, but the seasonal variation is small. In the north, minimum temperatures are highest in April and May when they are often over 75° and lowest in December and January when they are frequently below 56°.

The mean daily range of temperature is therefore high in the north, where it averages 25°, and is considerably

higher in the dry season, but low in the south, where it is usually not more than 15°

## THE PEOPLE

At the 1963 National Census the population of Nigeria was 55·7 million. This is the largest population of any country in Africa and the largest in the Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom, India and Pakistan. The estimated annual rate of growth is approximately 2·5 per cent.

The population is made up of many ethnic groups of which the major ones are Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani, Kanuri, Ibibio, Tiv, Ijaw, Edo, Annang, Nupe, Urhobo, Igala, Idoma, Igbirra, Gwari, Ekoi, Mumuye, Alago, Ogoni, Isoko, Higgi, Bura, Efik, Ghamba, Shau-Arabashuwa, Kaje, Jari, Kambari, Eggon, Kobchi, Anga, Karkare, Birum, and Yergam.

## PRINCIPAL CITIES AND TOWNS

Nigerian cities and towns have always been the centre of activities for the thousands of people who live in and around them. Most of the towns and cities grew up centuries ago as shelters against warring tribes, but today they have become hubs for the administrative, economic and social life of the nation.

The rate of growth of some of these cities and towns has been tremendous, and within the last ten years, a few of them have nearly doubled in size and population. They contain the largest concentration of industries and services and are increasingly becoming centres of culture of the nation. Some of the principal towns are Lagos, Ibadan, Kano, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Kaduna, Jos, Llorin, Calabar, Benin, Enugu, and Port Harcourt.

## BRIEF HISTORY

Nigeria as a political unit in the modern sense really came into being only in 1914. Its making, however, spans

several hundreds of years and embraces periods of Arabic influences in the north and European influences in the south

The name "Nigeria" is derived from an African word *nigr* meaning great river. "Nigeria" therefore means "Land of the Mighty River" or "The Country of the Great Waters."

It is appropriate that the country should be named after the River Niger, its most striking physical feature and a very useful means of communication. In the early days however, it was more useful internally than as a route for penetration from the coast into the interior. The delta greatly limited its value as a way in or a way out. And so for many centuries the country now called Nigeria was enclosed in the south by a difficult coastline and an impenetrable belt of rain forest along it, and in the north by the inhospitable desert. Its isolation would have been complete if the Sahara desert had really been the barrier it seems to be today. Historically the desert has not been an obstacle but the link between North Africa and the interior of the Western Sudan, including the Northern States of Nigeria.

Across the desert came many of the peoples now in Nigeria. From the dawn of history to the nineteenth century the history of the interior of West Africa was the history of the movement of different peoples and the constant process of fusion between them. Often these movements are impossible to follow in detail, and legend has to come to the help of history, but there is no doubt that new peoples and dynamic contacts between old and new were constantly enriching the life of the Nigerian peoples from a very early date. In the ninth and tenth centuries these movements of peoples seem to have been part of the vast upheaval consequent on the rise of Islam in Arabia. This speeded up the migrations through Egypt into North and West Africa, and was combined with the scattering of older North African Peoples in the desert and the Sudan.

From this date, too, the great caravan routes across the Sahara kept the interior in touch with the historic civilisations, and permitted a valuable flow of trade. Slaves, ivory and gold were sent northwards from the inland area stretching from the Senegal River to Lake Chad, and in return salt, cloth, iron and other metals, coral, and other goods were brought back by merchants from the Berbery states along the coast of North Africa.

Besides trade, the routes brought ideas, education, religion and culture, from the Arab-Berber Moslem civilisation in the north. This was a rich and fruitful tradition from which the Western Sudan greatly gained. Its own early traditions, its prosperous commercial life, and the intellectual stimuli it received, enabled the western Sudan to produce medieval empires, such as Bornu, all having that degree of political, economic, and cultural development that entitles them to be known as states or empires.

From this early period, then, came new peoples, trade, the religion of Islam, and new, intellectual influences, so that with the ninth century, roughly, the history of Nigeria may be said to have begun.

Bornu was the first part of Northern States to emerge clearly into the light of history. It was well placed, geographically and strategically, for development, being a convenient settlement area for early peoples coming from the coast through Egypt. It was also at the receiving end of one of the most ancient trade routes in the world—from Cairo, through the region known as the Fezzan then through the oasis of Kavar, where the chief town is Bilma, famous for its salt mines, and then on to Lake Chad.

To the west of Bornu were the seven Hausa states—Daura, Kano, Zauzau, Gobir, Katsina, Rano and Biram—which had a history only a little less ancient than that of Bornu itself. There was very close association among them, and each had a specific duty. The great western state of

Gobir had to defend the others against attack from Mali or Songhai. Kano and Rano were the productive states, having iron and growing cotton from which their people made cloth, Katsina and Daura were the first ports of call on the trade routes from the north while Zauzau (Zaria) to the south was the slave raider. Besides these seven there were other lesser kingdoms, such as Kebbi, Nupe, Gwari, Yelwa, Ilorin, Zamfara and Kwarafara.

To the south were the Yoruba kingdoms. The traditional early history of the Yorubas is full of interesting legends and stories, but they are difficult to reconcile with each other and impossible to date. The Yorubas are the descendants of two main groups of people, one the older indigenous stock of the country, to whom Ife was a sacred place and the centre of their religion, the other invading peoples of the same stock as the Berber founders of Bornu and the Hausa states.

By the sixteenth century there was clear evidence of a well organised society. External trade (mainly in salt) developed implying some great developments in commerce, and therefore by implication in political stability and peace. At about this time an embassy was sent to Europe. Yoruba prestige was at its highest at the end of the seventeenth century. One of its kings won a great battle in 1698 against the king of Ardra near Porto Novo. His army was described as consisting of ten hundred thousand men.

Meanwhile, further south, Benin—an offshoot of the Yoruba kingdom—was enjoying a position of eminence and beginning to attract the attention of European merchants. The first recorded European visit to Benin—by a Portuguese adventurer took place in 1486, while the first English visit took place in 1553. When the Europeans arrived they found, in the words of Michael Crowder in *The Story of Nigeria*, a kingdom that was ‘highly organised, backed by a large and efficient army, which gave it control of a large area of the coast. Its economy was such as to allow not only for

sacred carvings such as one finds in the small societies of Nigeria, but for a great deal of secular art, such as superbly curved ornaments, bells, lamp-holders, doors and pillars, many of which are now scattered throughout the museums of the world. It seems that Benin city, with its defensive walls, its large army, its hierarchy of chiefs, its elaborate court ceremonial, must have been based on the something more than subsistence agriculture. It probly carried on considerable trade with its immediate neighbours, as well as Oyo and the northern states. Possibly it supplied slaves for the Hausa market, though we have no definite evidence of this. What is remarkable about Benin, is that its growth was stimulated neither by contact with Islam nor Europe.

The end of the sixteenth century proved a turning point for Nigeria in more ways than one. At that time, in the north east, there was the powerful kingdom of Bornu. The Hausa states had reached a comparative level of material prosperity and cultural development. The Yoruba peoples were settling down and trade was beginning. The Nupe, Borgu, and Kwarafara peoples were already in place. Along the coast Benin was powerful, being in touch with Europe and open to European influences. The Ibo and Ibibio peoples were living in much the same areas as now, and they were already marked out as vigorous and thrusting. And yet the next two centuries were "centuries of historical night"—a period of stagnation, wars, the slave trade and political disintegration, ending in the early nineteenth century under the more creative, threefold influence of the Fulani wars in the north, the abolition of the European slave trade, and the early European exploration of interior.

The causes of the decline in the north were not wholly due to factors in Nigeria itself. In the last ten years of the sixteenth century, Moorish armies from Morocco descended on the Western Sudan, bringing to an end the glorious age of the Songhai empire. Moreover, the civilisation of the Sudan

and of the Moslem peoples between desert and forest, derived from the Moslem-Arab civilisation of the north; they shared the glories of Moslem achievement in the European Middle ages and they shared too its mysterious rapid decline

This period also saw the development of the European slave trade, whose effects were felt throughout Nigeria, as indeed throughout West Africa. If the demand for slaves did not itself stimulate wars, in which captives could be sold off as slaves the use of modern firearms bought from European traders greatly added to the terrors and the slaughter or such wars. Stories of deserted villages, failing crops, and then famine, are a reminder that in recording the sufferings of those sold into slavery, it is necessary to remember the sufferings of those left behind. And the final judgement of the slave trade may well be not that it led to cruelties and barbarities in the West Indies but that it retarded the development of civilisation in West Africa for some centuries.

Just as Britain took the lead in the organisation of slave trade so later she led the movement for abolition, partly because many people in Britain had come to see the moral evils of slavery and the trade, partly because continuance of the slave trade in the nineteenth century impeded the development of an increasingly valuable exchange in other products of West Africa.

Before trade could be developed, however, it was necessary for Europe to learn something about the interior of a continent whose rim alone existed for Europeans, after centuries of contact. Prominent among the explorers were Mungo Park, who "discovered" the River Niger, Denham and Clapperton who were the first Europeans to reach the Hausa states, and the Landers brothers who ascertained, for the benefit of Europeans, the true course of the Niger. On the heels of the explorers came the missionaries and by the beginning of the second half of the nineteenth century these had reached Abeokuta, Ibadan and Calabar.

Concurrent with the European penetration into the interior was the Fulani jihad—partly a religious movement, owing much to the inspiration of Islam, partly a national political movement of the Fulani peoples seeking domination over peasants and traders. The great national leader was Osman dan Fodio, and under him the Fulanis inflicted heavy defeats on the Hausa states and established their rule over more than 100,000 square miles of territory. Only Bornu in the north east withstood the onslaught. But another invading power soon challenged the Fulanis—this time the British.

Beginning with the annexation of Lagos in 1861, and the appointment of British consuls on the coast and the Oil rivers from 1849, British influence gradually penetrated further and further into Nigeria. From Lagos itself moves were made into Yorubaland. Then as trade along the Niger developed, the riverain territories came under the same influence in the second half of the nineteenth century, and at the very end of the century and the beginning of the next the north was brought under British control, prior to the amalgamation of the two halves of the country under the governor-generalship of Sir Frederick (Later Lord) Lugard in 1914.

The history of Nigeria from the early 1920s is the history of the rise of modern nationalism and of the advance towards independence. Progress at first was slow, but became more rapid after the second world war. Between 1946 and 1951 different constitutions were introduced which gave the Nigerians first representative and then responsible government. Under the 1946 constitution a federal form of government was introduced when the country was divided into three regions. A central legislature was set up to administer the whole country and regional Houses of Assembly were established to act as advisory bodies to the central legislature on regional matters. The 1951 constitution greatly increased regional autonomy, and established larger and

more representative legislatures with wider powers in the regions and at the centre. It further gave Nigerians a full share in the shaping of government policy and the direction of government action.

The constitution was revised in 1954 and again in 1957, each one taking the country a step nearer independence. Regional self-government was achieved by the former Eastern and Western Nigeria in 1957, while the former Northern Nigeria attained the same status in 1959. The Federation as a whole became fully independent and sovereign on October 1, 1960.

### THE TWELVE STATES OF NIGERIA

States	Capital	Area	Population
Lagos	Lagos	1,381	1,443,000
Western	Ibadan	29,100	9,488,000
Mid-Western	Benin-City	14,922	2,536,000
East Central	Enugu	11,548	7,469,000
Rivers	Port Harcourt	6,985	1,545,000
South Eastern	Calabar	10,951	3,381,000
Awari	Ilorin	28,672	2,399,000
North Western	Sokoto	65,143	5,734,000
North Central	Kaduna	27,108	3,878,000
North Eastern	Maiduguri	105,025	7,793,000
Benue-Plateau	Jos	39,204	4,230,000
Kano	Kano	16,630	5,775,000

**Exports** Crude Petroleum, Cocoa, Groundnuts, Cotton, Palm Oil and Palm Kernels, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seeds, Soya Beans, Beniseed, Ginger, Rubber and Tin, Timber, Asphalt, Iron and Steel Scrap, Columbite.

### NIGERIAN NATIONAL FLAG

*The Nigerian National Flag is divided vertically into three equal parts. The central part which is white symbolises peace and unity while the two outer parts which are green represent the Nation's vast agricultural wealth.*

## ARMORIAL BEARINGS

In Nigeria's Coat of Arms, there is an eagle mounted on a black shield which is bisected by two silver wavy bands. Two white chargers support the shield and at its base is a wreath of *coctus spectabilis* flower.

The black shield represents the fertile soil, the silver bands denote the Niger and Benue rivers which form the main inland waterways in the country. The *coctus spectabilis* is a wild colourful flower which grows in Nigeria.

The eagle stands for strength, and the chargers symbolise dignity. The wreath of *coctus spectabilis* is cast in the national colours of white and green.

The Nation's motto is Unity and Faith

---

## 2

# CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**T**here have been a number of different constitutions in Nigeria since Lagos was first occupied in 1861, but it was not until the Niger Coast Protectorate came into being in 1893 that there was any real Government

The Royal Niger Company, which took over the administration of the Niger and Benue valleys, was superseded in 1900 by the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria, and at the same time the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria took the place of the Niger Coast Protectorate. In 1906 the Colony and Protectorate of Lagos became part of Southern Nigeria. In 1914, the Northern and Southern Protectorates were combined, and Lord Lugard became the first Governor.

**General of Nigeria** From then until 1922 there were a Nigerian Council and a Lagos Legislative Council, these were merged in the Legislative Council of 1923, and a separate Town Council was set up for Lagos.

This Legislative Council did not legislate for the Northern Provinces until a new constitution was introduced in 1946 which provided for a central legislature for the whole of Nigeria and three regional Houses of Assembly, one for each group of Provinces having advisory powers only in regard to impending legislation.

The next constitution, which came into effect in 1952, afforded increased regional autonomy and extended to Nigerians a fuller share in shaping policy and in the direction of executive government action.

The desire for greater regional autonomy and the need for a more precise definition of functions as between the Centre and the Regions made it apparent that yet another constitution was required and conferences were held in London in 1953 and in Lagos in 1954, under the chairmanship of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

As a result of these conferences a new constitution, which is the basis of the present one, came into force on the 1st October, 1954. Nigeria became a Federation consisting of five component parts, the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions, the Federal territory of Lagos and the quasi-Federal territory of the Southern Cameroons (now known as West Cameroons) under United Kingdom Trusteeship. The Federal Government was given exclusive jurisdiction over such important subjects as aviation, banks, census, customs, defence, exchange control, external affairs, immigration, police, shipping, mines and minerals, posts and telegraphs, railways and trunk roads, trade and commerce between Nigeria and other countries and between the Regions. Jurisdiction was shared between the Federal and other Governments on such subjects as bankruptcy, electricity, industrial development,

insurance, labour, registration of business names, scientific and industrial research, statistics and water power. Residual matters for which no provision was made in either the exclusive or the concurrent legislative list or in the Constitution Order in Council were the responsibility of the Regional legislatures.

At a further conference held in London in 1957, arrangements were completed to enable the Eastern and the Western Regions to become self governing later in the same year. It was also then decided that a second chamber to be known as the House of Chiefs should be set up in the Eastern Region (the legislatures in the North and West were already bicameral) and that after the dissolution of the House of Representatives towards the end of 1959, there should be two legislative houses of the Federation, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Membership of the House of Representatives was to be enlarged to consist of 320 members elected on the basis of one member for approximately 100,000 of the population.

In September and October 1958, the Constitutional Conference resumed once more in London where it was agreed that the Northern Region should become self governing in March, 1959. Her Majesty's Government also agreed that if a resolution was passed by the new Federal Parliament early in 1960 asking for independence, Her Majesty's Government would agree to that resolution and would introduce a bill in Parliament to enable Nigeria to become a fully independent Country on 1st October, 1960.

Elections to the new House of Representatives were held in December, 1959.

At the first meeting of the Federal Legislature in January, 1960, both Houses unanimously passed the resolution calling for independence referred to above. Her Majesty's Government, in pursuance of the undertaking previously given, introduced the required Bill in Parliament. The

Nigerian (Constitution) Order in Council, 1960, was passed on the 12th September, 1960. This Order came into effect on 1st October, 1960, and Nigeria became an independent and sovereign nation with effect from that date.

The former British Cameroons, a United Nations Trust Territory, comprising the Northern and Southern Cameroons, was administered by Her Majesty's Government as an integral part of Nigeria, the Northern Cameroons forming part of the Northern Region and the Southern Cameroons having a separate administration within the Federation of Nigeria.

Following a recommendation by the United Nations that both parts of the territory should be constitutionally separated from Nigeria by 1st October, 1960, when Nigeria would become independent, and that there should be separate plebiscites by March, 1961, in each part of the Cameroons to ascertain whether the people wished to achieve independence as part of Nigeria or as part of the Republic of the Cameroon, a plebiscite was held on 11th and 12th February, 1961. The Northern Cameroons voted for unification with Nigeria and was formally incorporated into the Federation on 1st June, 1962, and later renamed the Sarawaka Province. The Southern Cameroons was incorporated into the Republic of Cameroon on 1st October, 1961, and ceased to be administered as part of the Federation of Nigeria.

Nigeria became a Republic within the Commonwealth on 1st October, 1963. From that date the British Queen ceased to be the head of State and was replaced by a President.

Following a military coup in January, 1966, the Nigerian Armed Forces were invited to take over the Government of the Federation, and a Military Government was established. Certain sections of the Constitution were suspended, all political activities were banned and the Federal and Regional legislatures suspended. In a decree promulgated to

effect these changes, the Federal Military Government was empowered to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Nigeria or any part thereof, with respect to any matter whatsoever. Military Governors were appointed for each of the Regional Governments.

By Decree No. 34, promulgated in May, 1966, the Federal nature of the Republic was abolished and the Regions became Provinces. This Decree which tried to introduce a unitary form of government was not well received. It sparked off a chain of reactions culminating in another military coup in July, 1966. This was followed by a series of disturbances all over the country and an exodus of people of the former Eastern Region origin from their normal places of residence back to their Region. This movement of people back to the former Eastern Region was encouraged by exaggerated stories of massacre and maltreatment of people from the Region by Nigerians from the rest of the country.

From October, 1966 to May, 1967 a series of efforts at conciliation were made by the Head of the Federal Military Government, religious organisations and leaders of thought without success. Following the meeting at Aburi, Ghana, Decree No. 8 of 1967 was issued to restore the power of the Regional Governments and to even make Regional Military Governors members of the Supreme Military Council, the highest legislative and executive body in the country. The Decree was, however, not acceptable to the Military Governor of the then Eastern Region because it contained a clause which made secession impossible. From then on, the Military Governor of the Eastern Region carried out series of illegal acts inimical to the welfare and good government of Nigeria. He ordered all Nigerians of non-Eastern Region origin to leave the Region, seized Federal assets in the Region and ordered that all Federal revenue should be paid into the Regional Government's treasury. This was followed by a massive propaganda of hate and constant threat of secession of the Region from the rest of the Federation.

These acts produced uncertainty and insecurity generally and pushed the country towards total disintegration. To arrest this situation, the Supreme Military Council adopted in April, 1967, as the first item in its political and administrative programme, the creation of States for national stability and to allay the fears of the minorities. On May 27, 1967, the Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces announced the creation of 12 States.

By Decree No. 27 of 1967, the former Northern Region was divided into six States, the former Eastern Region into three States while the Mid western Region remained as it was. The Colony Province of Western Region and the Federal Territory of Lagos were merged to form the Lagos State and what remained of the Western Region became the Western State.

---

# 3

## THE TWELVE STATES

**T**he demand for the creation of more states in Nigeria started long ago. There had been long and sustained agitations among people from the minorities areas that their interests were not adequately protected. Many Nigerian political leaders have also advocated in their writings and utterances the creation of more States for efficient administration, and to allay the fears of the minorities. Political parties which campaigned for the creation of States have won unexpected victories at regional and national elections in minority areas.

The pressure for more states was so great in fact that the British Government appointed the Willink Commission in 1958 to investigate

in the three Regions making up the Federation at that time, the fears of the minorities about domination by the majority tribes. At that time the British Government pointed out that if new states were to be created, they must be given at least two years before independence could be granted to the country. Nigerian leaders in their desire to break this colonial yoke and attain self determination turned down this suggestion. They agreed, however, to provide for the creation of States in the Independence constitution.

In 1963, the Mid western Region was created in response to the long campaign of the minorities in the then Western Region. There were similar agitations in other minorities areas of the Federation, particularly in the Rivers, Calabar-Ogoja the Middle Belt (made up mainly of what is now Kwara and Benue Plateau States) and Kano areas. But political considerations and the love of power by the majority tribes prevented the demands of these minority groups from being considered.

But the fears of the minorities did not abate and with the obvious imbalance of political power becoming more and more evident the whole country realised the dangers this imbalance posed to the political, economic, and social stability of the country if it remained uncorrected for long. The Military regime saw its way more clearly than the politicians and decided to create new States.

The 12 States created from the Federation are given in Table I below and the Divisions in each State are shown in Table II. Although the states vary in size and population they all have equal status and are autonomous within the powers conferred on them by the Constitution.

TABLE I

States	Capital	Area (Square miles)	Population
Lagos	Lagos	1,381	1,443,000
Western	Ibadan	29,100	9,488,000
Mid-western	Benin-City	14,922	2,536,000
East-central	Enugu	11,548	7,469,000
Rivers	Port Harcourt	6,985	1,545,000
South-eastern	Calabar	10,951	3,381,000
Kwara	Ilorin	28,672	2,399,000
North-western	Sokoto	65,143	5,734,000
North-central	Kaduna	27,108	3,878,000
North-eastern	Maiduguri	105,025	7,793,000
Benue plateau	Jos	39,204	4,230,000
Kano	Kano	16,630	5,775,000

TABLE II

State	Divisions
(a) North-western	Argungu, Gwandu, Sokoto, Abuja, Bida, Kontagora and Minna
(b) North-central	Katsina, Jema'a, Kaduna Capital Territory and Zaria
(c) Kano	Kano and Kano Northern Division
(d) North-eastern	Bedde, Biu, Bornu, Dikwa, Potiskum, Adamawa, Muri Numan, Sardauna (Southern), Bauchi, Gombe, and Katagum
(e) Benue-plateau	Akwanga (Southern), Idoma, Lafia, Nasarawa, Tiv, Wukarj, Jos, Lowland (Shendam) and Pankshin
(f) West-central	Ilorin, Lafiagi-Pategi, Borgu, Igala, Igbira, Kabba and Kwara Koton Karfe.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| (g) Lagos         | The Federal Territory, and the Badagry, Epe and Ikeja  |
| (h) Western       | Egba, Egbado, Ekiti, Ibadan, Ife, Ijebu, Ijebu Remo, Ilesha, Okitipupa, Ondo, Oshun, Owo and Oyo |
| (i) Mid western   | Aboh, Afenmai, Akoko Edo, Asaba, Benin, Ishan, Isoko, Urhobo, Warri and Western Ijaw             |
| (j) East central  | Aba, Abakaliki, Afikpo, Agwu, Awka, Bende, Nsukka, Okigwi, Onitsha, Orlu, Owerri and Udi         |
| (k) South eastern | Ogoja, Obudu, Obubra, Ikom, Abak, Calabar, Eket, Enyong, Ikot Ekpene, Opobo and Uyo              |
| (l) Rivers        | Ahoada, Brass, Degema, Ogoni and Port Harcourt   |

### DELIMITATION COMMISSION

In the Decree creating the States, provision has been made for a State Delimitation Commission which will ensure that any divisions or towns not satisfied with the States in which they are initially grouped will obtain redress

---

## THE GOVERNMENT

(FEDERAL AND STATE MINISTRIES)

**I**n the first Republic (1963-6) Nigeria comprised four regions Northern Nigeria, Western Nigeria, Eastern Nigeria, Mid-Western Nigeria, together with the centrally administered territory of Lagos

The President was Head of State, and Parliament comprised the Presidency, the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House)

Executive power was vested in the Prime Minister and his Cabinet all of whom were members of, and responsible to Parliament. Each of the four Regions had a bicameral legislature a house of Chiefs (Upper House) and a House of Assembly (Lower House). The Premiers were

the Chief Executives in the Regions, while Regional Governors were the ceremonial Heads

In the second Republic (1966), the administration is vested in the Federal Military Government consisting of the following two major organs (i) The Supreme Military Council and (ii) The Federal Executive Council consisting of both Armed Forces Personnel and civilians. The Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, is the Chairman of both Council. Civilian members of the Council are allocated departmental responsibilities

The Supreme Military Council Comprises

Head of the Federal Military Government and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces

Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters

Chief of Staff, Nigerian Armed Forces

Head of the Nigerian Navy

Head of the Nigerian Air Force

Military Governor, Western State

Military Governor, Mid Western State

Military Governor, East Central State

Military Governor, Lagos State

Military Governor, North Western State

Military Governor, North Central State

Military Governor, Kano State

Military Governor, North Eastern State

Military Governor, Benue Plateau State

Military Governor, Kwara State

Military Governor, South Eastern State

Military Governor, Rivers State

Inspector General of Police

The Administrator, East Central State

The Administration of each of the twelve States is under a State Governor who is the Chairman of the State Executive Council. Like the Federal set up, civilians are also included in the State Councils

## FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

There are 15 ministries in the Federal Public Service. These ministries are charged with the responsibility of controlling, supervising and fulfilling the various institutions and functions of the Federal Military Government. Before the Military rule, each Ministry was under a Minister with a Permanent Secretary as the administrative head. The functions of the Ministers are now performed by Federal Commissioners. The administrative set up in the States are similar to that in the Federal Establishment, each Ministry being headed by a Commissioner, with a Permanent Secretary as the Administrative head under a Commissioner. All members of the Public Service are governed by the governments General Orders, which deal in detail with regulations governing terms and conditions of service, including discipline and other matters.

Below are the lists of State Commissioners and their respective Portfolios

### RIVERS STATE

#### Title

Commissioner for Finance  
 Commissioner for Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources  
 Commissioner for Local Government and Information  
 Commissioner for Justice  
 Commissioner for Economic Development Trade and Industry  
 Commissioner for Health  
 Commissioner for Education  
 Commissioner for Works, Lands and Transport  
 Commissioner for Rehabilitation

### BENUE-PLATEAU STATE

#### Title

Commissioner for Home Affairs and Information  
 Commissioner for Finance

Commissioner for Works  
 Commissioner for Surveys  
 Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Commissioner for Education and Community Development  
 Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare  
 Commissioner for Trade and Industry  
 Commissioner for Establishments

### **NORTH-EASTERN STATE**

#### **Title**

Commissioner for Natural Resources  
 Commissioner for Establishments  
 Commissioner for Education  
 Commissioner for Information and Home Affairs  
 Commissioner for Trade and Industry  
 Commissioner for Animal Health and Forestry  
 Commissioner for Finance  
 Commissioner for Works and Survey  
 Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare

### **KANO STATE**

#### **Title**

Military Governor  
 Local Government  
 Home Affairs, Information  
 Commissioner for Finance  
 Commissioner for Economic Planning and Development  
 (under Finance)  
 Commissioner for Establishment (under Finance)  
 Commissioner for Education and Community Development  
 Commissioner for Works and Survey  
 Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare  
 Commissioner for Natural Resources and Co-operatives

### **NORTH-CENTRAL STATE**

#### **Title**

Military Governor

Military Governor's Office  
 Commissioner for Information  
 Commissioner for Economic Planning, Trade and Industry  
 Commissioner for Agriculture and Co-operatives  
 Commissioner for Internal Affairs  
 Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare  
 Commissioner for Natural Resources  
 Commissioner for Works  
 Commissioner for Finance, Establishments and Training  
 Commissioner for Education  
 Commissioner for Justice

### MID-WESTERN STATE

#### Title

*Military Governor*  
 Department of Internal Affairs and Information  
 Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development  
 Commissioner for Works, Land and Transport  
 Commissioner for Justice  
 Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare  
 Commissioner for Establishments and Training  
 Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Commissioner for Trade and Industry  
 Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs  
 Commissioner for Education

### WESTERN STATE

#### Title

Commissioner for Finance  
 Commissioner for Trade and Industry  
 Commissioner for Establishment and Training  
 Commissioner for Works and Transport  
 Commissioner for Education  
 Commissioner for Home Affairs and Information  
 Commissioner for Military Governor's Office

Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources  
 Commissioner for Health  
 Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy  
 Affairs  
 Commissioner for Lands and Housing  
 Commissioner for Economic Planning and Social De-  
 velopment

### KWARA STATE

#### Title

Commissioner for Finance  
 Commissioner for Local Government  
 Commissioner for Natural Resources  
 Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare  
 Commissioner for Education and Community Develop-  
 ment  
 Commissioner for Information  
 Commissioner for Establishment Matters  
 Commissioner for Works and Water Resources  
 Commissioner for Trade and Industry  
 Commissioner for Home Affairs

### NORTH-WESTERN STATE

#### Title

Military Governor  
 Military Governor's Office  
 (Home Affairs and Information)  
 Commissioner for Finance (Establishments and Train-  
 ing, Economic Planning)  
 Commissioner for Finance (Trade and Industry)  
 Commissioner for Natural Resources Agriculture and  
 Co-operative  
 Commissioner for Natural Resources Animal and For-  
 est Resources  
 Commissioner for Works  
 Commissioner for Works (Town and Country Planning)  
 Commissioner for Justice

Commissioner for Education  
Commissioner for Health and Social Welfare

### LAGOS STATE

#### Title :

Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development  
Commissioner for Justice  
Commissioner for Education  
Commissioner for Agriculture, Natural Resources,  
Trade and Industry  
Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy  
Affairs  
Commissioner for Health  
Commissioner for Works and Transport

### SOUTH EASTERN STATE

#### Title

Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Commissioner for Education and Social Welfare  
Commissioner for Finance and Economic Planning  
Commissioner for Health  
Commissioner for Home Affairs and Information  
Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice  
Commissioner for Trade and Industry  
Commissioner for Works and Transport  
Commissioner for Surveys and Town Planning  
Commissioner for Rehabilitation

### KWARA STATE

Area 28,672 square miles  
Population 2,406,265  
State Capital Ilorin (Population - 208,546)

Kwara is the home of Africa's newest and one of the world's largest dams. The £87.65 million Kainji Dam, is almost as long as Egypt's new Aswan Dam. In addition to providing enough hydro electric power for the vast area of Nigeria and its environs, the Kainji Dam, forms a lake large enough to establish a fishing industry surpassing all in the rest

of the Federation. It offers a vast opportunity for investment and is the key to extensive industrial development in Kwara State.

The State has iron ore deposits, estimated at over 260 million tons, located at Lokoja. Deposits at Okene have not yet been completely explored. Limestone, coal and marble are also available.

Industries at present operating in Kwara include cotton ginning, saw milling, oil milling, manufacture of cigarettes, matches, sugar and paper. Principal cash crops are cocoa, henniseed, cotton, coffee, palm oil, kernels and rice. Forest products include natural rubber, cane, kola-nuts, tobacco leaf and timber.

The Lagos-North trunk road and rail route traverse the State. Good telecommunications services connect Kwara with other parts of Nigeria. The Niger and Benue rivers link at Lokoja in the State.

The population includes Yorubas, Igbirras, Nupes, Hausas and Igalas. All live happily, following mainly Christian and Islamic faiths.

Ilorin, the State capital, is an ancient Yoruba town noted for weaving, pottery works and other arts and crafts.

## KANO STATE

Area 16,630 square miles

Population 5,774,842

State Capital Kano City (Population 295,432)

Kano is the groundnut centre of Nigeria. It also produces a sizeable quantity of the cotton, cowpeas, wheat and tobacco.

One million cattle, 500,000 sheep and 2.5 million goats graze in the State's rich grasslands. The meat products from these animals are used by the Nigerian Canning Com-

pany Limited to produce two million cans of corned beef, beef stew and a variety of Nigerian foods annually, as well as for export. Hides and skins, bone and meat are also exported. Two big piggeries and some poultry farms near Kano City complete the area's livestock supply.

The State's mineral resources include tin, columbite and cassiterite.

Furniture, enamelware, cosmetics, mineral water, stationery, canvas shoes, metal work, leather soles, groundnut products, soap, tyre retreading, weaving, tanning, dyeing, silver beating and pottery are the principal products.

The State is served by good telecommunications and transport systems linking it with every part of the Federation. Kano State has West Africa's busiest international airport, and is also renowned for its ancient walled city and caravan routes.

### NORTH-EASTERN STATE

Area 120,854 square miles

Population 7,815,443

State Capital Maiduguri (Population 139,965)

The North eastern State is the largest in the Federation. Its administrative provinces are Bornu, Bauchi, Adamawa and Saradauna. It has an unrivalled development potential. Opportunities for industrial and agricultural investment are many and varied. The sale of two main cash crops, cotton and groundnuts, accounts for an income of at least £8 million for producers in the State. Of this 150,000 tons of groundnuts and 40,000 tons of seed cotton are exported each year, but the potential far exceeds these figures.

Major irrigated crops at present are wheat and rice but there are possibilities of growing a wide variety of additional crops. The State government encourages foreign investors to establish plantation farming either alone or in partnership with local entrepreneurs.

There is a promising future for gun arabic, arabica coffee, wood for timber, pulp and other wood based industries on the Mambilla Plateau. There is also an abundance of fish in Lake Chad and the River Benue which require processing to meet the unsatisfied demand in the southern part of the country. Annual present catch is about 10,000 tons

Almost half of Nigeria's livestock population is in the North eastern State. This has formed the basis for the development of the Bauchi meat industry

Limestone, cassiterite, hematite, barite and graphite have been located in the State but have not yet been exploited. Tin is mined in isolated areas

A rail extension to Bornu and a good network of roads linking the State with other states and inexpensive electricity provide the infrastructure for industrial development

The State also possesses a great tourism attraction in Yankari, West Africa's only game reserve. This is a 720 square miles area. It has a wide selection of game ranging from lion to elephants, antelopes, monkeys and birds

The State Capital, Maiduguri, is connected by air, rail and road to other state capitals of the Federation

### EAST CENTRAL STATE

Area 8,746 square miles

Population 7,469,000

State Capital Enugu (Population 138,457)

Like the other states within the 12 state structure of the Federation, the economy of the East Central State is diversified. The main export crop is palm produce. Because of its coal industry, Enugu, the State Capital, is often called the 'coal city'. Maximum coal production was attained in 1960 but reserves of coal at Enugu are estimated at 39 million

tons, most of which goes to the Railway and Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. Other known mineral resources are crude oil, lead, zinc, iron ore and limestone.

Yams, cassava, plantains and bananas, coco yams, maize and citrus are produced for domestic consumption. Secondary industries include cement and asbestos pottery, oil processing, spinning and weaving, Akwete clothing, assembly plants, boat building, tyre retreading, soap manufacture, steel fabrication and shoemaking. Terrazo tiles, mineral water and beer are also produced in the State.

Enugu is best known as an administrative centre rather than a commercial one, although leading commercial firms have established offices there. On the other hand, Aba is highly industrialized and will continue to be the communications nerve centre of the State.

The £500,000 Onitsha market, damaged during the recent hostilities, is located at a strategic position on the River Niger, making Onitsha an important commercial town, while the market itself was always one of the best and certainly the largest on the West African Coast.

Good rail, road and air systems as well as telecommunications services normally link the State capital with the rest of the Federation, oil wells around Owerri are being fully tapped.

## NORTH-WESTERN STATE

Area 65,004 square miles

Population 5,733,296

State Capital Sokoto (Population 89,817)

North western's extensively traditional industries have produced world famous 'Morocco Leather' from its Skoto goats' skins, Abuja posts and Bida brassworks and beads. Export crops are groundnut, tobacco, cotton, soya beans, and palm produce. Known mineral deposits in North western State are gold, tin, and columbite, marble, graphite

and limestone. The State's animal resources include cattle, sheep, goats, camels and pigs. The Nupes make well known shea-butter.

The State is the home of the modern Kalambaina cement factory at Sokoto. Textile manufacture, pig farming, glass works, leather works, tanning, weaving and fishing also contribute to the economy of the State. Abuja Pottery Training Centre has received students from various parts of the world, including Britain, New Zealand, Uganda and Ghana. The State's tobacco leaf production and rice plantations have a promising future. Industrial expansion in North western State will be further enhanced with building of the Shiroro Gorge hydro-electric network. The Sokoto Rima Valley project, jointly sponsored by the Nigerian Government and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) will supply basic data for soil and water resources aimed at improving agriculture in the valleys.

Sokoto, the State capital, was the heart of the historic Fulani empire and seat of Sultan 'Sarkin Musulmi' (Head of Muslims) of the old Western Sudan. Good road, river and air transport as well as telecommunications connect Sokoto with the rest of the State and other parts of Federation.

With the completion of the Kainji Dam and the quay at Yelwa, river transportation on the Niger from Jebba and Yelwa and then on to neighbouring countries has improved.

The State has potential tourist attractions in the annual Argungu Fishing Festival and numerous traditional dances and festivities.

### NORTH CENTRAL STATE

Area 26,949 square miles

Population 4,098,305

State Capital Kaduna (Population 149,910)

Cotton is the State's main product. Farmers of North Central State produce more cotton per head than their count-

exports anywhere else in the Federation. Another important cash crop for the State is groundnuts. Tobacco is cultivated in commercial quantities and increasing importance is being attached to 'Kenaf' for the production of ribbon and netted fibre for the sack factory in Benue Plateau State. Hides and skins are exported and sugarcane is grown extensively. Mineral resources include gold, cassiterite, amethyst and molybdenite. Investigations are underway to ascertain the extent and quality of uranium, mica, kyanite, columbite and silica sand.

Giant factories in Kaduna produce textiles alongside the Federation's ordinance factory. Brewery and petrol depots are also situated in Kaduna. Cotton gins, tobacco leaf drying plants, cigarette and vegetable oil factories, a colour printing press, bicycle assembly plants and groundnut mills also operate in this State.

The North Central State is served by modern telecommunications and transportation which connect the State to all parts of the Federation. Kaduna is a well planned town served by a radio and TV network, Ahmadu Bello University is situated in Zaria, historic Hausa town in the State.

The State also has tourist attractions, elephant ranges, scenic features and relics of ancient Hausa civilization. Kaduna's 78 room Hamdala Hotel is centrally air conditioned.

## BENUE PLATEAU STATE

Area 41,844 square miles

Population 4,009,408

State Capital Jos (Population 90,402)

Benue Plateau produces more than 80 per cent of Nigeria's tin, helping to make Nigeria the sixth largest producer in the world. Other minerals produced in State are columbite (over 80 per cent of world output), lead, zinc and

salt Hides and skins are among the State's other major export products

Export crops include soya beans, palm products, cotton, groundnuts, henniseed and ginger

The Tivs form the bulk of the State's population. Their main occupation is farming but the people also engage in fishing on the River Benue, which is the State's main 'highway'. Boat building, cotton ginning, dairy farming, saw milling, tyre retreading, fish farming, sack making and tin smelting are all found in the Benue Plateau.

Good rail, road and air service connect the State with the rest of the country, telecommunications services are extensive.

Tin mining centre as well as State Capital, Jos, has a museum, housing ancient sculptures including well known Nok terracottas. It is a beautiful garden city high on a plateau, whose cool, non tropical climate has attracted people from all parts of the globe.

The State derives its name from two geographical features in the State, the River Benue which divides it into two, and the Highlands (Plateau) in the north.

## LAGOS STATE

Area 5,747 square miles

Population 1,433,567

State Capital Lagos City (Population 665,246)

The Lagos State has been aptly described as the 'Gateway to the Federal Republic of Nigeria' and because of its increasing importance has become Nigeria's gateway to the world and the fountainhead of its modern culture.

The Lagos State includes the nation's capital, Lagos City and the old colony provinces of Ikeja, Epe and Badagry.

**DIVISIONS**

Historically, Lagos Island was settled by elements from the Nigerian hinterland seeking refuge from more powerful neighbours in early modern times, particularly during the age of discovery. It became a port of call for Portuguese merchants who later christened it (Lagos de Curamo) because of its prominence during the slave trade in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Today, Lagos State is the commercial and industrial centre of Nigeria and as the nation's chief port handles the greatest percentage of the country's export and import.

As the national capital and chief port, the principal city of Lagos is the hub of the nation's public and business administration. The increasing importance of Lagos in Nigeria's development can hardly be overstated. Its role in the Government of Nigerian nationhood and constitutional development is already noted. Above all, there is its spirit of tolerance and 'Nigerianess' which proclaims it a place where people from all states and all nations live and work in peaceful harmony.

## RIVERS STATE

Area 7,008 square miles

Population 1,544,314

State Capital Port Harcourt (Population 179,563)

The oil-rich Niger Delta, largest in Africa, is the preponderant area of the State. The Rivers State produces over 60 percent of the Federation's oil output, which rates thirteenth in the world. The State's natural gas deposits are among the world's largest. Rubber, oil palm, coconut and raffia are cultivated as export crops. Timber is also produced. Great potentialities exist for production of sugar cane, peanuts, rice, vegetables and citrus fruits. The State's oceanographic and river resources are largely unexploited, especially the limitless possibilities for commercial fish production.

About one third of the State's land area is covered by mangrove forests yet to be tapped for industrial and commercial purposes. The State capital, Port Harcourt, is the nation's second largest port, and is a major factor in oil export. Its industrial plants include £10.5 million oil refinery, and petroleum wells and factories for the manufacture of metal doors, windows, tyres and tubes, soap, underwear, lumber and furniture, boats, lime cement, terrazzo, cigarettes, aluminium products, soft drinks, industrial gas and clinker grinding.

The many rivers and interlocking waterways provide facilities for inexpensive and easy transportation by water, both for distribution of manufactured goods and local produce, and for a system of communications to stimulate trade and development in the State. Vast opportunities for tourism and development of a tourist industry abound.

### **SOUTH-EASTERN STATE**

Area 13,730 square miles

Population 4,626,317

State Capital Calabar (Population 76,418)

South-eastern State's chief cash crops are palm kernels and palm oil. Cocoa, peanuts, benniseeds, piassava, soya beans, coconuts, cashewnuts and kola nuts are also cultivated in commercial quantities, as are yams, cassava, maize, rice, coco-yams, plantains, bananas, tomatoes, okro, melons, pineapples, chillies, garden eggs, sweet potatoes, paw paws and citrus fruits.

The State has extensive untapped forest resources, including rubber. The high plateau in Obudu is tsetse free, and suitable for cattle raising. Its cool, non-tropical climate invites tourism as do the beautiful sandbanks of Ibene of the Atlantic shore.

The sea, rivers and creeks which abound in the State are suitable for the development of commercial fishing. Minerals known to exist in the State are crude oil, tin ore, lead, zinc, limestone, gas and salt. Industries in the South-eastern State include timber production, rubber processing, saw milling, palm oil processing, dairy farming, boat building and repairing, cement manufacture, baking, furniture manufacture and commercial fishing.

The State Capital, Calabar, is one of the Federation's main ports. It is rich in cultural heritage, has a modern airport, and is linked to the rest of the State and other main towns in Nigeria by roads, sea, rivers, and telecommunications system.

## MID-WESTERN STATE

Area 15,344 square miles

Population 2,535,839

State Capital Benin City (Population 100,694)

Situated in south western Nigeria, the Mid western State is bounded on the north by Kwara State, on the south by the Bight of Benin, on the east by the East Central and Rivers States and on the west by the Western State.

It produces about 80 percent of the country's rubber and crepe, supplies over 80 percent of Nigeria's total timber and 35 percent of the nation's crude oil. Other resources include natural gas, limestone and lignite. The leading industries are glassware, carving, sawmilling, boat building, palm oil processing, cement and textile production.

The Mid western State was formerly part of the Western Region. It became an autonomous unit of the Federation on August 9th, 1953. The ethnic groups are Edos, Urhobos, Itsekiris, Ibos and Ijaws. Christianity and Islam are the principal religions.

Benin City is world renowned for its famous bronzes, brass and ivory works of art which are to be found in museums all over the world. The State is linked with other parts of the Federation by a network of roads, air transport, telephones and telegraphic services.

## WESTERN STATE

Area 29,100 square miles

Population 9,487,526

State Capital Ibadan (Population 627,379)

The Western State abounds in a wide variety of natural resources fertile agricultural land, mineral deposits, rivers, creeks and access to the ocean for fishing. The State is the world's second largest producer of cocoa. Its forests account for more than 40 percent of the timber exported from Nigeria. It also exports rubber, palm oil, coffee and grape fruit. Cotton and Kenaf are widely cultivated for domestic use.

Industrial products include vegetable oils, cocoa butter, beer, textiles, asbestos cement sheets, cement, plastic goods, aluminium ware, fibre bags, cigarettes, canned fruits, soft drinks and modern boats. Mineral deposits include limestone, clay, lignite, oil and gas, gold, tin, columbite, tantalite, phosphate, tar, sand and stone, coal and peat, talc and sillimanite.

The establishment of new industrial centres available to Nigerian and foreign industrialists as well as the introduction of new industrial projects are given priority in the State Government's development programme. Under this programme an excellent industrial climate has been created for foreign and indigenous investments.

Education is heavily subsidized by the State Government accounting for over 40 percent of its annual expenditure.

tures. There are two universities—University of Ife (State owned) and the University of Ibadan, established by the Federal Government

An extensive network of fully-equipped hospitals, clinics, maternity homes, health centres, and various other medical and health facilities serve the State

Pipe-borne water, electricity and modern roads are available in many parts of the State. There are also luxurious hotels, catering rest houses, and an all-purpose Sports Stadium

Ibadan is a bustling commercial centre linked with many other centres in the state and with Lagos by direct trunk telephone as well as rail, road and air transport facilities

---

## 5

### PUBLIC CORPORATIONS, BOARDS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**P**ublic Corporations in Nigeria are statutory organisations established and financed by the Governments to operate certain public utilities. These corporations or boards (as some of them are called) are established at both Federal and State levels. They have their own staff and are independent in their day-to-day operations, although they are accountable to certain Ministries over a number of issues such as policy matters. While most of them are expected to operate on commercial lines their prime duty is to function effectively in the overall interest of the economic and social needs of the nation.

The Federal Government Corporations are The

Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation, the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Nigeria Airways, the Nigerian Coal Corporation, and the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. These organisations operate utilities which are exclusively the preserve of the Federal Government.

Apart from the above corporations the Federal Government has also established a number of companies to operate on purely commercial basis partly to break the monopoly of foreign companies or to meet needs which are not sufficiently being provided by private finance. In this group are the Nigerian National Shipping Lines the National Insurance Corporation of Nigeria, the Nigerian External Telecommunications Limited and the Industrial Development Bank.

In the front line of government corporations are the Marketing Boards. These began as commodity marketing boards. Such a board handles one commodity for the whole country and is controlled from one point. Today the Marketing Boards have been de-centralised and are now controlled by the State Governments. Each Board is now an all-purpose marketing organisation handling not just one commodity but all agricultural produce controlled by the marketing board in each State.

In the States the public corporations operate utilities different in nature from those obtaining in the Federal set up but with the same objective in view, namely, the economic development of the State and the provision of social amenities for the people. Unlike the Federal Corporations, however, the areas of operations for the States' organisations are not altogether exclusive to them. The States agricultural corporations, for example, operate side by side with privately-owned plantations. In many cases State Corporations and private businesses have gone into partnership to establish industries.

## FEDERAL PUBLIC CORPORATIONS

### **Nigerian Railway Corporation**

The Nigerian Railway Corporation was established in April 1955 to take over the control of the railway from the Government Railway Department. The Corporation is headed by a chairman appointed by the Federal Government. There is also a General Manager.

Nigeria has a greater railway mileage than any other country in the Commonwealth outside the Dominions. The system comprises 2,287 route miles to 3 ft 6 ins gauge and extends to all the commercial centres in the country. The system is single tracked and consists of two main routes penetrating inland from the ocean ports of Lagos and Port Harcourt and meeting at Kaduna. From Kaduna, the line runs to Kano and Nguru, near the border with the Niger Republic. A 400 miles track completed in 1964 branches off from Kafanchan on the Kaduna-Port Harcourt line and runs through Bauchi to Maiduguri, capital of the North-eastern State. An important line runs between Kafanchan and Bauchi to the mining district of Jos and provides outlet for Nigeria's tin and columbite. From Zaria a branch line runs to a north-westerly direction to Kaura Namoda while another runs from Minna to Baro on the Niger. In the south a branch line runs from Ifo to Idogo. The headquarters of the Corporation is located in Lagos.

The Corporation operates two workshops in Lagos. These are the locomotive workshops and the carriage and waggon workshops. The locomotive workshops carry out repairs and servicing of the steam and diesel-electric engines, rolling stocks and other mechanical equipments of the Corporation. The carriage and waggon shop is responsible for coach repair (including complete rebuilding of bodywork of coaches), the repair and maintenance of waggons and

bogies, upholstery work for passenger coaches, and coach spraying

In addition to the workshops at Ebute-Metta the Corporation also maintains mechanical workshops in the major railway stations such as Ibadan, Offa, Zaria, Enugu and Port Harcourt

The Nigerian Railway Corporation operates steam and diesel electric locomotives, but the trend is to replace all steam engines with diesel ones

### **Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation**

The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation was established by law in 1956 and came into operation in 1957. It took over the broadcasting service previously undertaken by the Federal Government.

The Corporation is charged with the responsibility to provide as a public service, independent and impartial broadcasting by means of wireless telegraphy and by television for general reception in Nigeria. The Corporation began external broadcasting service in 1962, and has also absorbed the television service established by the Federal Government in Lagos in 1962.

The Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation does not have a monopoly on radio or television broadcasting. Each State Government is free to establish its own broadcasting stations and some States have already established these services.

### **Nigerian Airways**

The introduction of modern commercial aviation in Nigeria dates from May, 1946, when the once famous West African Airways Corporation (WAAC) which was operated by the Government of Gambia, Sierra-Leone, Gold Coast (now Ghana) and Nigeria was inaugurated. WAAC was dissolved in September, 1958, and was succeeded in Nigeria on 1st October, 1968 by the Nigeria Airways.

The abbreviation 'WAAC' is still associated with the Nigeria airways. The registered name of the national airline is WAAC (Nigeria) Limited, but Nigeria Airways is used in all publicity materials, aircraft markings, mural decorations, etc.

Nigeria Airways was, before 1st April, 1961, financed and operated jointly by the Nigerian Federal Government, the British Overseas Airways Corporation, and Elder Dempster Lines Limited with the Federal Government having a controlling interest of 51 percent of the shares, while E. D. Lines and BOAC had 33 percent and 16 percent, respectively.

The Nigeria Airways is a member of the International Air Transport Association. The company also acts as general sales agents to many international airlines. The Airways is responsible for the provision of scheduled internal air services in the country, although two other companies operate charter services. The Airways also operates scheduled flights to other parts of West Africa and to Equatorial Guinea.

For a number of years, the Nigeria Airways and B. O. A. C. jointly operated flights between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, on equal partnership basis. The Nigeria Airways now operates its own international flights along this route, using its newly acquired VC 10.

The Nigeria Airways has in Lagos an engineering base, second to none in Africa, for the repair and maintenance of its own aircraft as well as the aircraft of other airlines operating flights to Nigeria. The company has also established schools for the training of traffic personnel and reservation and flight stewards and stewardesses.

The administration of the Airways is vested in a Board of Directors while the day-to-day running of the company is handled by the General Manager.

### Electricity Corporation of Nigeria

Before the commissioning of the Niger Dams hydro-electric project in 1968 the principal authority for the generation of electricity was the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. The Corporation is still responsible for the distribution of electricity in the country. This is obtained partly from its own generating plants and partly from bulk purchases from the Niger Dams Authority.

The only other important source of electric energy is the Nigerian Electric Supply Corporation Limited. Formed in 1949, this company holds a concession from the Federal Government to supply electric power for mining purposes in the Plateau minesfield area and for such other purposes as may be authorised by the Head of State. Under this authority, it provides the bulk supply on behalf of the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria for the areas of Jos, Bukuru and Vom.

The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria was established in 1951 and took over the supply of electric power from the Public Works Department of the Government. The Corporation operates about 48 generating stations all over the country. Many of these burn oil or coal while the some power station burns gas supplied from the Nigerian oil fields.

### Nigerian Coal Corporation

The Nigerian Coal Corporation controls the coal industry in the country, including mining development and the distribution of coal for local use and export. The Corporation was established under the Nigerian Coal Corporation Act, No. 29 of 1950.

The Act provides for it to work and win coal in existing mines or in other deposits under licence by the Federal Government. The Corporation may manufacture and sell products of coal including coke and gas, bricks, tiles, cement and glass. It may also mine and sell clay, fire-clay, sand

and limestone. It is also empowered to carry out research and experiments into matters connected with its functions.

The Corporation operates four collieries—Iva, Okpara, Ekulu and Ribadu—all of which are close to Enugu. These modern collieries are capable of producing in the aggregate about 80,000 tons of coal per month. Coal from Enugu ignites readily, burns with a long steady flame and does not cake or form clinker. The ash is a pale pink powder with a high fusion point. Recent experiments have proved that coke can be produced from Enugu coals.

### **Nigerian Ports Authority**

The Nigerian Ports Authority was established by the Ports Act 1954. It began to operate in 1955 when it took over the assets and staff of the Marine Department of the Government.

The Nigerian Ports Authority is responsible, among other things, for the provision, improvement and maintenance of harbour facilities and services in Nigeria. These include dredging, hydrographic surveying, buoyage, pilotage, operation of lighthouses, towage and salvage. The Authority also manages, maintains and operates the quays at Apapa, Lagos and Port Harcourt.

The Authority consists of a chairman, eleven appointed members and six elected members, representing the Governments, payers of ships dues, payers of harbour dues, the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the marketing boards and labour organisations.

The Authority was responsible for the maintenance of the inland waterways, but this is now performed by a Waterways Department in the Federal Ministry of Transport.

Although the Ports Authority is responsible for the delta ports of Burutu, Warri and Sapele and the approaches to them, the shore installations are privately owned.

The Nigerian Ports Authority finances its operation from revenue obtained from harbour and pilotage dues, crane, wharfage, shore-handling and storage rates and from other services performed for ships in Nigerian harbours

### State Corporations

Before the creation of 12 States, the four Regional Governments operated a number of statutory corporations for the economic and social development of their respective Region. In general these corporations were charged with the responsibility of providing loans to individuals or organisations for the development of trade and industry the formulation and financing of development schemes the improvement of the quality and quantity of Nigeria's principal agricultural products (including the establishment of plantations and processing factories for agricultural produce), and the establishment of factories alone or in partnership with local or foreign businessmen.

With the new political set up it is expected that development corporations on the pattern of those established by the Regional Governments will be created by the States. These will take over the projects formerly managed by the former Regional corporations.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Important administrative and judicial functions are performed by local government bodies in Nigeria. A lot of development projects are also executed at the local Government level either at the instance of the local Government authority or on behalf of the Federal and State Governments.

The system of local government in Nigeria grew out of circumstances varying from one part of the country to another. The device of 'Native Administration' associated with what used to be Northern and Western Nigeria stemmed from the system of indirect rule adopted by the early British

administrators whereby functions of local Government were allowed to be carried out by the traditionally recognised emirs and chiefs and their councils, with the advice and assistance of a small British staff. These staff were designated 'residents' and 'district officers' and they provided the link between the emirs and chiefs and their council and the Regional and central governments.

The hierarchy of native authority ranged from the Emir or paramount chief, council, district and village heads with the native courts to the local government police, acting as legal arms of the authority. These constituted the native authority system. This system proved so successful in the then Northern and Western Regions that it was extended to the Eastern Region in 1929. But it failed to work well in the Region because of the absence of easily identifiable traditional authorities in the form of native rulers.

This difficulty, coupled with a growing demand of the people to have more say on how they are governed, led to the modification of the local government systems. Town and district councils were established by law and membership of these councils was made up of elected and nominated Nigerians with the emir or chief as the chairman. Most of the Local Government councils are now made up of elected members.

Local Government bodies provide various services for the people. In some areas they carry out such functions as the construction and maintenance of roads, markets, motor parks, the building and running of schools, dispensaries, community centres, and other services.

Local government revenues are derived from government grants and from taxes and rates levied locally. Other sources of funds are court and licence fees, and proceeds from hire or lease of council properties including lands, forest reserves and buildings.

---

# 6

## LAW AND ORDER

**N**igeria adheres to the principle of the Rule of Law. It is on this principle that the Nigerian Constitution was founded.

The Nigerian Constitution is the basic law of the land. It is the source of power for the legislative, executive and judicial arms of the Nigerian Government; and provides necessary safeguards against arbitrary exercise of powers by the three organs of Government.

The Constitution empowers the Parliament to make laws for order and good Government of the Federation. The Nigerian Parliament consists of two-chambers-the Senate (Upper House) and the House of

**Representatives (Lower House)** The House of Representatives is composed of elected representatives from all the constituencies in the Federation. It originates most laws by way of bills and appropriate funds for the whole country.

A bill becomes law after undergoing three readings in both chambers of Parliament during which members had full opportunity to debate it in all its ramifications.

The powers of Parliament to make laws are limited by the Constitution. This is to ensure that an over-zealous Parliament does not violate the entrenched clauses of the Constitution. Prominent among these entrenched clauses are the fundamental human rights that guarantee to the citizen the rights to life, privacy, freedom of speech and of movement etc.

These rights can, however, be curtailed or abrogated in times of national emergency.

Parliament delegates the power to make bye-laws to local Government bodies which take the shape of Native Authorities in the Northern States and city or urban councils in the Southern States. Local Government bodies make bye-laws on local affairs. Besides the Federal Parliament, each state has its own parliament that makes law for the state within the powers conferred on it by the Constitution. The Federal and state governments have co-ordinate powers on a variety of subjects. But where there is a conflict between Federal law and State law, the Federal law supersedes the State law and the State law becomes void to the extent of its inconsistency with the Federal law.

Laws of Nigeria have been codified into 12 volumes. The rules and procedure in legal proceedings are similar to the English legal system because of Nigeria's long association with the British. Jurisprudence, equity, and case laws are applied in Nigerian courts.

The supreme court is the highest court and the final court of appeal in Nigeria. It has both original and appellate jurisdiction. The power to interpret the constitution is vested in the Supreme Court. It hears disputes between component states of the Federation or between a state and the Federal Government involving any question as to the existence of any legal right, and matters arising under any treaty or any international organisation outside Nigeria. Appeals in both civil and criminal proceedings lie from the High courts to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is presided over by the Chief Justice who sits with two Supreme Court judges when the court is in session.

The High Court of Justice in each state consists of a Chief Justice and Puisne Judges. The High Courts of Justice are superior courts of records and have unlimited jurisdiction in first instance matters, except in certain cases which are reserved to the Federal Supreme Court. The High Courts also have jurisdiction to hear appeals from Magistrates and Native courts.

The Magistrates courts have original jurisdiction in a large variety of civil and criminal cases, some also have jurisdiction to hear appeals from Native courts. The offices of Chief Magistrates have been retained in all areas in the Federation.

Co-existing with the law courts are a vast number of Native courts. The law administered in the Native courts is, generally speaking, the native law and custom prevailing in their respective areas of jurisdiction. In the Islamic districts of the Northern States, moslem law is administered.

The Constitution guarantees the independence of the judiciary.

## The Police

The history of the Nigeria Police dates back to 1861 when a 'Consular Guard' of 30 men was formed to keep the peace. Two years later, this unit constituted the 'Hausa Police'. In 1879, the Hausa Constabulary for the colony of Lagos was established under an ordinance. It consisted of 1,200 officers under the direction of an Inspector-General. This Constabulary was essentially organised for para military purposes but also performed civil police duties. In 1896, the Lagos Police Force was established.

The numerical strength of the Police has now grown from its colonial figure of 1,200 men to about 30,000. The Inspector-General is still the head of the Nigeria Police Force. In each State is appointed a Commissioner of Police who directs police operations in that State and is directly responsible to the Inspector-General.

A Police Council and Police Service Commission has been established, the one to decide on policy matters and the other to take charge of appointments, promotions, discipline and other service conditions in the police force.

Because of the intricate nature of police duties, a training scheme was introduced in order to instruct officers and men of the Nigeria Police on police duties, discipline and law. The Southern Police College at Ikeja was opened in 1948 for the training of cadet officers. Advanced courses in oversea countries are also organised periodically for officers.

Refresher courses are held in various centres in the Federation for the training of recruits before they assume duties.

In order to cope with its onerous task of maintaining law and order as well as traffic control the police employs the services of Special Constabulary. The Constabulary consists, not of men in the regular force but, of honest

citizens drawn from different walks of life Their appointments are on temporary basis

The Police has the power to arrest and detain, for a limited time, any person suspected of breaking the law or likely to do so An arrested person must be brought to the law court with a charge preferred against him A citizen can apply to the law court for writ of habeas corpus or sue the police for unlawful detention or arrest

An accused person, under the Nigerian law, is presumed innocent until the charge against him has been proved beyond all reasonable doubts by the prosecution He has the right to give evidence in his own defence and to call witnesses He has also the right to legal representation If he is proved guilty, the court will impose punishment on him in the form of fine or imprisonment or both

The Police and the Prison authorities will see to the carrying out of the court sentence against the convict

### Prison

Convicted persons serve their jail sentences in the Prison The Federal Prison is a department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs It is headed by a Director

The Prisons provide for the spiritual and general welfare of prisoners Part-time paid chaplains are employed in at least seven convict prisons In other prisons arrangements were made for regular visits of ministers of religion, moslem leaders and law workers of all the principal denominations to attend to the spiritual needs of prisoners Education is not lost sight off Prisoners who are anxious to learn are offered elementary education, mainly simple reading, writing and arithmetic Some of the clever ones advance to G C E and are offered opportunity to sit and obtain the certificate In 1962, for example, two prisoners passed a number of subjects at G C E Advance level Six

successes were also recorded in the R S A examinations and two in Book keeping

Prison libraries are stocked with text books and novels and are at the disposal of prisoners

Vocational courses are also offered. Classes on motor mechanics, electricity, cloth weaving, carpentry, tailoring and other trades are held. Prisoners attend classes of their choice. Instruction is by qualified staff, instructors and prisoners.

Social activities are arranged to enable prisoners learn to live together in cordial atmosphere and to bring them in contact with the world around them. Every prisoner has a say in his welfare which is done democratically through his accredited representatives in the camp welfare council comprising staff and prisoners.

These welfare services are designed to transform prisoners into good citizens and to provide them with occupational trade when they have been discharged from imprisonment.

---

# 7

## DEFENCE

### Nigerian Armed Forces

**T**he Nigerian Army grew out of the Royal Niger Company Constabulary and the forces of the old Lagos Colony and Niger Coast Protectorate. The Nigerian army underwent a great many changes

On March 14th, 1928, His Late Majesty King George V approved that the title of the forces be changed to the Royal West African Frontier Force

During the Second World War the Regiment served in many parts of the world and played a distinguished part in the defeat of the Italians in East Africa and Japanese in Burma. The Royal West African Frontier Force provided

the largest colonial expeditionary force to leave any colony and it was a West African division which was the first ever to be entirely supplied by air

The end of the war came before the West African Divisions could carry out their plans for the attack on Malaya and so after a period of rest and vocational training in India they returned to their home countries in 1946 with a record of which they could well be proud

In 1956 the Nigerian Army was constituted into a separate command and on April 1, 1958, control of the Nigerian Military Forces was surrendered by British War Office to the Government of Nigeria

In 1960 Nigerian troops and policemen were sent to Congo Kinshasa as members of the United Nations peace keeping force. There they maintained a good record of performance

On January 15, 1966, a section of the Army led by some majors mutinied and attempted to overthrow the civilian Government. Before the coup leaders could accomplish their design they were foiled by loyal troops under the control of the then Head of Nigerian Armed Forces Major General Aguiyi Ironsi. On January 17, 1966, what was left of the civilian government handed power to the Armed Forces

Dissension grew among the troops and sections became suspicious of other sections. It was openly debated among officers from differing ethnic groups that the attempted coup was tribalistic and that the Military Government that succeeded the civilian regime was out to foster the supremacy of a particular tribe. And so on July 29, 1966, a counter coup in the army took place in which its head and many officers lost their lives

It was now clear that the army had been divided along tribal lines. One faction withdrew to its home region and

started preparation for secession from the Federation. All persuasions and entreaties to the contrary proved abortive. On May 30, 1967, the Eastern Region formerly under the control of its military governor Lieutenant Colonel Emeka Ojukwu declared secession from the Federation. The Nigerian Army now commanded by Major General Yakubu Gowon termed the secession illegal and began preparations to put it down.

Lieutenant-Colonel Emeka Ojukwu was dismissed from the office of Governor, East Central State, and from the Nigerian Army with ignominy, on July 1, 1967.

In the early hours of July 6, 1967, civil war broke out between the rest of the Federation and the rebels headed by Ojukwu who had planted themselves firmly in control of the former Eastern Region now reconstituted into three states.

The war raged fiercely and bitterly for 30 months. There were two fronts to the war—one in Nigeria and the other in the foreign press. The rebels spent millions of pounds to procure foreign news media which disseminated false propaganda against Federal Forces. Allegations of massacres and even genocide were made. All were however proved to be false. In prosecuting the civil war, Federal Forces stuck to the code of conduct which was issued to them by the Commander in Chief Major General Gowon. The code, among other things, ordered them to take adequate measures to safeguard security of the citizens in three states under the control of the rebels. The operation started first as a police action by the Federal Forces. Later it escalated to a civil war.

This was the first full scale war fought with modern weapons by Africans in Africa in which all the armed forces—the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force played their parts. The rebels supported by foreign speculators and white mercenaries were defeated in January, 1970.

## Nigerian Navy

The Nigerian Navy was first established in April 1956. Before then, certain marine duties which had been carried out by the old Marine Department had been taken up by the newly created Ports Authority. As the country was making progress towards independence the Government decided it was high time a Naval Force was established to perform duties which were not properly within the capacity of the Ports Authority.

The Force was developed in two phases. The first was concerned mostly with peacetime duties which the Government must discharge in its territorial waters. These include

- (a) The maintenance of the Eastern Preventive Sea Patrol,
- (b) The undertaking of hydrographic surveys outside ports limits at the direction of the Federal Government,
- (c) The mining of the Nigerian vessels, and
- (d) The maintenance of seamen's training establishment in which Nigerian seamen could be trained not only for the Force but also for the National (Government) Shipping Line and other merchant Shipping lines.

The second phase was the development of the Force into a fully armed service equipped and trained for duty in war.

Duties in this category are

- (i) Carrying out training and exercises in mine watching and mine sweeping, antisubmarine work, gunnery etc.
- (ii) Providing protection for fishing industry
- (iii) Providing air/sea rescue services

- (iv) Guarding the security of the Nigerian Territorial Waters, conducting Port Examination Service and exercising the Naval Control of Merchant Shipping

During the civil war, the Nigerian Navy was put to test and it came out in flying colours. Its role started by patrolling the territorial waters and putting in check foreign interventionists who were engaged in gun running for the rebels. Many of such ships were intercepted and their illegal cargoes seized. However, its most important role which will always be remembered was the bombardment and subsequent capture of Bonny Island which the rebels has made their stronghold. It was a combined operation involving the Army, the Air Force and The Navy.

### **The Nigerian Air Force**

The Nigerian Air Forces was founded in 1964 when the Air Force Act, 1964, was enacted by the Federal Parliament.

The Air Force was charged with the defence of the Federal Republic by air. The instrument also made provision for the creation and maintenance of an air force reserve consisting of such numbers of officers, warrant officers, non commissioned officers and men who are transferred to it on completion of their period of service in the air force and of such others as may be prescribed.

A national body, the Nigerian Air Council provided for in the Act, was made responsible for the operational use of the air force subject to the overall direction by the Council of Ministers.

The Air Force grew rapidly during the civil war. It played its role creditably by guarding the Nigerian skies, making it difficult for gun runners to continue with their nefarious missions into Nigerian territory. Immediately the

civil war ended, the Air Force again resumed its mission of mercy to the war affected areas flying in food and relief material

### **Armed Forces Training**

For training officers and men of the armed forces, the Federal Government in 1964 also established the Nigerian Defence Academy at Kaduna. This is a joint services institution charged with the training of officers for the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Rapid expansion in the armed forces recently stimulated training activities at the Academy